

First Announcement

The Consistory has the sad duty of informing the Congregation that a brother, by Baptism ingrafted into the Christian Church, is guilty of the sin of....., and that he in spite of many earnest admonitions, did not show evidence of true repentance. Therefore the Consistory, to its great sorrow is obliged to deal further with this brother, and, if he persists in his sin, to proceed to his excommunication. The Consistory is making this known to you for the first time and in all seriousness exhorts you to pray for him continually, that it might please the Lord to bring him to repentance.

Second Announcement

The Consistory, having taken the advice of classis, has the sad duty of informing the congregation, that by baptism ingrafted into the Christian Church, in spite of continual earnest admonitions obstinately persists in the sin of..... Unless he within shows repentance and amendment of life, the consistory will be obliged to exclude this brother from the communion of the Church because of his wilful disobedience to the covenant of God. The congregation is exhorted to admonish this averse member with affection and to pray the Lord for his conversion.

The Excommunication

The consistory had the sad duty of informing the congregation that by baptism ingrafted into the Christian Church, in spite of continual earnest admonitions, obstinately persisted in the sin of and that the consistory would be obliged to exclude this brother from the communion of the Church, unless he would show repentance and amendment of life.

The consistory must now inform the congregation that, in spite of many earnest admonitions, obstinately denies the communion with Christ and His Church, which was signified and sealed unto him in Holy Baptism.

Therefore, being obliged to proceed, we ministers and rulers of the Church of God at this place, being assembled in the Name and authority of Jesus Christ, our Lord declare before you all that for the aforesaid reasons we hereby excommunicate from the Church of our Lord and that, as long as he persists obstinately and impenitently in his sins, he is excluded from the fellowship of Christ and all His spiritual blessings and benefits which God promises to and bestows upon His Church; and that he is therefore to be accounted by you as a gentile and a publican, according to the command of Christ, who says that whatsoever His ministers shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven.

Further we exhort you, beloved Christians, to keep no company with him to the end that he may be ashamed; yet count him not for an enemy, but at times admonish him as you would a brother.

Hebr.3:12
Eph.6:1-4

In the meantime, take heed lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

I Pt.5:5

You that are younger be subject to the elders.

I Jn.2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

But since it is God who works in us both to will and to work, for His good pleasure, let us call upon His holy Name with confession of our sins.

Prayer

O righteous God, merciful Father, before thy high majesty we blame ourselves for our sins, and acknowledge that we have justly deserved the sorrow and pain caused us by this excommunication of this our late fellow-member; yea, if Thou shouldst enter into judgment with us, we all deserve to be excluded and banished from Thy presence on account of our great transgression. But, o Lord, be gracious unto us for Christ's sake; forgive us our trespasses, for we heartily repent of them; and work in our hearts an ever increasing measure of sorrow for them, that we, fearing Thy judgment which Thou bringest upon the stiff-necked, may endeavour to please Thee. Grant that we may avoid all pollution of the world and of those who are excluded from the communion of the Church, in order that we may not make ourselves partakers of their sins, and that he who is excommunicated may become ashamed of his sins.

And since Thou desirest not the death of the sinner, but that he may repent and live, and since the bosom of thy Church is always open for those who return, kindle Thou, therefore, in our hearts a godly zeal, that we, with good Christian admonitions and example, may seek to bring back this excommunicated person, together with all those who through unbelief and recklessness of life go astray. Add Thy blessing to our admonitions, that we thereby may have reason to rejoice again in them for whom we must now mourn, and that thus Thy holy Name may be praised, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray,(Lord's Prayer). Amen.